subscribers are continuing to pay rental bills;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that subscribers having telephone connections under the administrative *jurisdiction of General Manager (West I & II)* of the MTNL, could not get their connections restored even after continuous payments of bills;

(e) whether Government would now direct the MTNL to get the process of rectification and proper service of the telephones to subscribers expedited, without further delay; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Letters from MPs are duly acknowledged. Prompt action is taken on the complaint of the MP and the MP informed accordingly. Restoration of Telephones disconnected for non payment is being done in accordance with procedure detailed in (d) below.

(d) Telephones disconnected for non payment are restored expeditiously on payment of dues provides the period of disconnection is less than three months. In cases of reconnection beyond three months and upto six months reconnection orders are issued. However, actual reconnection could be delayed if area is technically not feasible. Cases of reconnection beyond six months are approved depending upon merits of each individual cases.

(e) and (f) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

Growth of Telecom facilities in Villages

7057. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth of telecommunications facilities in villages during 1994-95; and

(b) whether almost all Panchayats in whole of India have been covered with UHF/Satellite Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The details of growth of telecommunications facilities in villages during 1994-95, are as under:

(i) 3025 Electronic exchanges having capacity of 2,63,708 lines have been installed in the rural areas. This includes the electronic exchanges installed for replacement of old electrome chanical exchanges at some of the places.

(ii) 47,659 village public telephones have been provided.

(iii) Telegraph facility has been provided to 8077 VPTs.

(b) No Sir, as on 31.03.95, 1,55,310 Panchayat villages have been provided public telephone facility (VPTs), thus covering about 66% of the Panchayat Villages in the country. Out of this, 59,088 VPTs have been provided through Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARR) in the VHF band.

UHF and Satellite based system are not presently being used.

Profit/Losses of MTNL

7058. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is running at a loss and the profits they have shown are inflated; and

(b) what are the details of dues of MTNL, alongwith the details of more than four figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. MTNL is not running at a loss and the profits shown are not inflated.

(b) There are no dues pending payment by MTNL. Sufficient provisions are being made in the accounts and dues paid as and when the *liability arises.*